Private School Participation in Title I

Jack O'Connor
Assistant Title I Director
Montana Office of Public Instruction

Federal Law

- Under Title I, LEA's must provide services to eligible private school students if requested
- Services must be to eligible elementary and secondary students, their teachers, and their families
- "Equitable share"
- Services must be equitable to those provided to eligible public school children, teachers, and families
- Services must be secular, neutral, and nonideological

Consultation

- Discussions must be held between the LEA and private schools on the key issues related to Title I services
- This gives both groups an opportunity to express their views about the services
- Helps to foster productive working relationships between the groups to better impact student achievement

Consultation Requirements

- Ways the LEA will identify eligible students
- Services to be provided
- How and when the LEA will make decisions about the delivery of services
- How, where, and by whom the LEA will provide services
- The method and sources of data the LEA will use to identify eligible students

More Requirements

- Services the LEA will provide to teachers and families of eligible students
- Discussion of the delivery mechanisms the LEA will use to provide services
- If a third-party contractor should be used

General Consultation Information

- LEA must keep records related to the consultations
- Signed affirmations from private school
- Consultation should be on-going
- Private schools have the right to complain
- Title I application (Egrants) must be available to the private school

Program Assessment

- Program should be assessed for effectiveness at the end of the year
- Students should be assessed before program entry, during the program, and at the end of the year
- Next steps should be discussed with the private school
- Prepare for the next year

Allocating Funds

- There are four main sources to determine poverty data:
 - Census count
 - Free and reduced lunch
 - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
 - Medicaid assistance
 - Proportionality
- This process may be difficult in a private school

Collecting Poverty Data

- Free and reduced lunch count is preferable
- May have to use comparable poverty data from other sources
- Can be done every two years

Eligible Children

- Child must reside in a participating public school attendance area
- Must meet the requirements to be served under Title I
- LEA must work with the private school to determine eligibility

Types of Services

- LEA designs the Title I program with input from the private school
- Must supplement and be well coordinated with the regular program
- Service types: instructional services, extended day, family literacy, counseling, computer-aided instruction, home tutoring, etc.
- Must be secular, neutral, and nonideological

Qualifications

- Teachers and paraprofessionals who are employed by the LEA must meet the highly-qualified rules under NCLB
- Third-party providers do not have to meet the NCLB requirements
- Hires outside of existing contracts with LEA/private school

Administrative Costs

- Reasonable amounts may be set aside to run the program at the public and private school
- Third-party administrative costs are allowable
- Expenses: furniture, purchase or lease of property, insurance and maintenance costs, transportation, etc.
- Cannot be used to renovate the private school site

Parental Involvement

- Like Title I in a public school, it is required for private school participation
- If the district receives \$500,000 or more in Title I funds, it must set aside 1% for parental involvement and a portion of this must be used for parental involvement activities for private school parents

Professional Development

- Should assist public and private school staff
- Must have meaningful consultation
- Services must be equitable and paid for by the public school
- Must only be for private school teaching staff directly working with identified Title I students-reading and math only

Resources

- USED
- Non-regulatory guidance: http://www2.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/psguidance.doc
 guidance.doc
- OPI website:
 - http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/TitlePrgms/NonPublic/index.html
 - http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/TitlePrgms/TItleIA/TitleIA.html#g pm1_2
 - http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/TitlePrgms/TItleIA/TitleIA.html#g pm1_11

Contact Information

- Jack O'Connor, Assistant Title I Director
 - Phone: 406-444-3083
 - Email: joconnor2@mt.gov
- Heather Denny, Title I Specialist
 - Phone: 406-444-2036
 - Email: hdenny@mt.gov